CLAIMS:

What is claimed is:

1. A method for selecting a carrier type for routing a call, said method comprising:

determining whether a called party is inside a local calling scope of a calling party;

responsive to a determination that said called party is inside a local calling scope of said calling party, selecting a first carrier as said carrier type;

responsive to a determination that said called party is outside said local calling scope of said calling party, selecting a second carrier as said carrier type if an originating LATA of said calling party and a terminating LATA of said called party are the same and selecting a third carrier as said carrier type if said originating LATA and said terminating LATA are different.

2. The method of claim 1 wherein said step of determining whether a called party is inside said local calling scope of a calling party comprises:

determining an originating rate center and a terminating rate center by performing a lookup in a LATA table using a calling party number and a called party number; and

searching for said terminating rate center in an originating rate center table.

3. The method of claim 2 wherein if said terminating rate center is found in said originating rate center table and an extended dial plan entry in said table is null for said terminating rate center, said called party is inside said local calling scope.

4. The method of claim 3 wherein if said terminating rate center is found in said originating rate center table and said extended dial plan entry in said table indicates that an extended dial plan is required for said terminating rate center, said called party is inside said local calling scope only if either said called party or said calling party

5   subscribes to said extended dial plan.

1   5.   The method of claim 2 wherein said lookup is performed using a key chosen from

2   the group consisting of a NPA-NXX-X combination and a NPA-NXX combination.

1   6.   The method of claim 2 wherein said lookup of said originating rate center is

2   performed using said calling party number and wherein said lookup of said terminating

3   rate center is performed using said called party number.

1   7.   The method of claim 1 wherein said determination that said called party is inside

2   said local calling scope of said calling party is made when said terminating rate center is

3   found in an originating rate center table for said originating rate center.

1   8.   The method of claim 1 wherein said determination that said called party is inside

2   said local calling scope of said calling party is made when said terminating rate center is

3   found in an originating rate center table for said originating rate center and an extended

4   dial plan requirement indicated in said originating rate center table for said terminating

5   rate center is satisfied.

1   9.   The method of claim 1 wherein said originating LATA and said terminating

2   LATA are the same when a lookup in a LATA table using a calling party number and a

3   called party number indicates that an originating LATA key and a terminating LATA key

4   are equal.

1   10.   The method of claim 1 further comprising:

2   comparing an originating NPA-NXX to a terminating NPA-NXX prior to

3   determining whether a called party is inside a local calling scope of a calling party; and

4   responsive to a determination that said originating NPA-NXX and said

5   terminating NPA-NXX are the same, selecting a local exchange carrier as said carrier

6   type.

1   11.   A method for determining a carrier type for routing a call, said method

2   comprising:

3   comparing an originating NPA-NXX to a terminating NPA-NXX;

4   responsive to a determination that said originating NPA-NXX and said

5   terminating NPA-NXX are the same, selecting a local exchange carrier as said carrier

6   type;

7   responsive to a determination that said originating NPA-NXX and said

8   terminating NPA-NXX are different, determining an originating rate center for a calling

9   party and a terminating rate center for a called party;

10   responsive to a determination that said terminating rate center and said originating

11   rate center are the same, selecting a local exchange carrier as said carrier type;

12   responsive to a determination that said terminating rate center and said originating

13   rate center are different, searching an originating rate center table for said terminating rate

14   center;

15   responsive to finding said terminating rate center in said originating rate center.

16   table, determining whether said terminating rate center requires an extended dial plan to

17   make a local call from said originating rate center to said terminating rate center;

18   responsive to a determination that said extended dial plan is required, selecting

19   said local exchange carrier as said carrier type if either said calling party or said called

20   party subscribe to said dial plan, and if neither said calling party nor said called party

21 subscribe to said dial plan, selecting an IntraLATA carrier as said carrier type if an

22 originating LATA is the same as a terminating LATA and selecting an InterLATA carrier

23 if said originating LATA is different from said terminating LATA;

24   responsive to a determination that said extended dial plan is not required,

25 selecting a local exchange carrier as said carrier type; and

26   responsive to not finding said terminating rate center in said originating rate

27 center table, selecting said IntraLATA carrier as said carrier type if said originating

28 LATA is the same as said terminating LATA and selecting said InterLATA carrier as said

29 carrier type if said originating LATA is different from said terminating LATA.

1   12. A data processing system for selecting a carrier type for routing a call comprising:

2   means for determining whether a called party is inside a local calling scope of a

3 calling party;

4   means, responsive to a determination that said called party is inside a local calling

5 scope of said calling party, for selecting a first carrier as said carrier type;

6   means, responsive to a determination that said called party is outside said local

7 calling scope of said calling party, for selecting a second carrier as said carrier type if an

8 originating LATA of said calling party and a terminating LATA of said called party are

9 the same and selecting a third carrier as said carrier type if said originating LATA and

10 said terminating LATA are different.

1 13. The data processing system of claim 12 wherein said means for determining

2 whether a called party is inside said local calling scope of a calling party comprises:

3   means for determining an originating rate center and a terminating rate center by

4 performing a lookup in a LATA table using a calling party number and a called party

5 number; and

6   means for searching for said terminating rate center in an originating rate center

7   table.

1   14.   The data processing system of claim 13 wherein if said terminating rate center is

2   found in said originating rate center table and an extended dial plan entry in said table is

3   null for said terminating rate center, said called party is inside said local calling scope.

1   15.   The data processing system of claim 14 wherein if said terminating rate center is

2   found in said originating rate center table and said extended dial plan entry in said table

3   indicates that an extended dial plan is required for said terminating rate center, said called

4   party is inside said local calling scope only if either said called party or said calling party

5   subscribes to said extended dial plan.

1   16.   The data processing system of claim 13 wherein said lookup is performed using a

2   key chosen from the group consisting of a NPA-NXX-X combination and a NPA-NXX

3   combination.

1   17.   The data processing system of claim 13 wherein said lookup of said originating

2   rate center is performed using said calling party number and wherein said lookup of said

3   terminating rate center is performed using said called party number.

1   18.   The data processing system of claim 12 wherein said determination that said

2   called party is inside said local calling scope of said calling party is made when said

3   terminating rate center is found in an originating rate center table for said originating rate

4   center.

1   19.   The data processing system of claim 12 wherein said determination that said

2   called party is inside said local calling scope of said calling party is made when said

3   terminating rate center is found in an originating rate center table for said originating rate

4   center and an extended dial plan requirement indicated in said originating rate center table

5   for said terminating rate center is satisfied.

1   20.   The data processing system of claim 12 wherein said originating LATA and said

2   terminating LATA are the same when a lookup in a LATA table using a calling party

3   number and a called party number indicates that an originating LATA key and a

4   terminating LATA key are equal.

1   21.   The data processing system of claim 12 further comprising:

2   means for comparing an originating NPA-NXX to a terminating NPA-NXX prior

3   to determining whether a called party is inside a local calling scope of a calling party; and

4   means, responsive to a determination that said originating NPA-NXX and said

5   terminating NPA-NXX are the same, for selecting a local exchange carrier as said carrier

6   type.

1   22.   A computer program product in a computer readable medium for selecting a

2   carrier type for routing a call, said computer program product comprising:

3   first instructions for determining whether a called party is inside a local calling

4   scope of a calling party;

5   second instructions, responsive to a determination that said called party is inside a

6   local calling scope of said calling party, for selecting a first carrier as said carrier type;

7   third instructions, responsive to a determination that said called party is outside

8   said local calling scope of said calling party, for selecting a second carrier as said carrier

9   type if an originating LATA of said calling party and a terminating LATA of said called

10 party are the same and selecting a third carrier as said carrier type if said originating

11 LATA and said terminating LATA are different.

1   23.   The computer program product of claim 22 wherein said first instructions

2   comprises:

3   instructions for determining an originating rate center and a terminating rate

4   center by performing a lookup in a LATA table using a calling party number and a called

5   party number; and

6   instructions for searching for said terminating rate center in an originating rate

7   center table.

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1   24. A computer program product in a computer readable medium for determining a

2   carrier type for routing a call, said computer program product comprising:

3   first instructions for comparing an originating NPA-NXX to a terminating NPA-

4   NXX;

5   second instructions, responsive to a determination that said originating NPA-NXX

6   and said terminating NPA-NXX are the same, for selecting a local exchange carrier as

7   said carrier type;

8   third instructions, responsive to a determination that said originating NPA-NXX

9   and said terminating NPA-NXX are different, for determining an originating rate center

10   for a calling party and a terminating rate center for a called party;

11   fourth instructions, responsive to a determination that said terminating rate center

12   and said originating rate center are the same, for selecting a local exchange carrier as said

13   carrier type;

14   fifth instructions, responsive to a determination that said terminating rate center

15   and said originating rate center are different, for searching an originating rate center table

16   for said terminating rate center;

17   sixth instructions, responsive to finding said terminating rate center in said

18   originating rate center table, for determining whether said terminating rate center requires

19   an extended dial plan to make a local call from said originating rate center to said

20   terminating rate center;

21   seventh instructions, responsive to a determination that said extended dial plan is

22   required, for selecting said local exchange carrier as said carrier type if either said calling

23   party or said called party subscribe to said dial plan, and if neither said calling party nor

24   said called party subscribe to said dial plan, selecting an IntraLATA carrier as said carrier

25   type if an originating LATA is the same as a terminating LATA and selecting an

26   InterLATA carrier if said originating LATA is different from said terminating LATA;

27   eighth instructions, responsive to a determination that said extended dial plan is

28   not required, for selecting a local exchange carrier as said carrier type; and

29   ninth instructions, responsive to not finding said terminating rate center in said

30   originating rate center table, for selecting said IntraLATA carrier as said carrier type if

31   said originating LATA is the same as said terminating LATA and selecting said

32   InterLATA carrier as said carrier type if said originating LATA is different from said

33   terminating LATA.

1   25.   A computer readable medium containing a data structure for storing originating

2   rate center data comprising an originating rate center table containing an entry for each of

3   a plurality of originating rate centers, each entry containing a LATA key, an originating

4   rate center, a terminating rate center associated with said originating rate center, and a

5   dial plan associated with said terminating rate center.

1 26.   A computer readable medium containing a data structure for storing rate center

2 data comprising a table containing an entry for each of a plurality of NPA-NXX

3 combinations, each entry containing a LATA key, a rate center associated with said NPA-

4 NXX combination, and a dial plan associated with said NPA-NXX combination.